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H I P A A l e r t: NewsBrief - Thursday, February 13, 2003

>> From Phoenix Health Systems--HIPAA Knowledge--HIPAA Solutions <<  
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\*\*\* HHS Adopts Final Security & Transaction Modifications Rules \*\*\*

February 13, 2003 -- HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced the adoption of the Security and Transaction Modifications Final Rules. The security standards will be published as a final rule in the Feb. 20 Federal Register with an effective date of April 21, 2003. Most covered entities will have two full years -- until April 21, 2005 -- to comply with the standards; small health plans will have an additional year to comply, as HIPAA requires.

In a separate final regulation, HHS adopted modifications to the transaction standards. Covered entities must comply with these modified transaction standards by Oct. 16, 2003. The final transaction modifications rule, which will also be published in the Federal Register on Feb. 20, combines two proposed rules published May 31, 2002. HHS worked extensively with the Designated Standards Maintenance Organizations (DSMOs) to revise the proposed changes to the standards, as required by Congress as part of HIPAA.

Read more, including the full text of the Security Final Rule:

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/2003/0213hhs.htm>

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